SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph

THE McGARRAHAN CLAIM.

The withdrawal of General Jacob D. Cox from the Department of the Interior at Washington has been alleged to be owing to a disagreement between him and President Grant on the subject of what is called the McGarrahan claim. The nature of that slaim, its history, and the present condition of the controversy about it, have accordingly come to be matters of unusual public interest.

The land involved is the Panoche Grande ranch, a tract of four Spanish leagues in area, situated in Monterey and Fresno counties, California, about one hundred and twenty-five miles southeast of San Francisco, and now occupied by the New Idria Mining Company. All that gives value to it is its quicksilver mines, it being almost useless for agricultural purposes. With its improvements it is worth perhaps \$1,000,000.

The two parties contending for the ownership of the land are William McGarrahan, of California, and the New Idria Mining Company, of the same State. This company is mainly composed of Barron & Co., the great quicksilver merchants, who, with some other foreigners, own one-half the stock; W. C. Ralston, cashier of the Bank of California, who owns one-eighth; and D.O. Mills, President of the same bank, who also owns oneeighth. Mr. McGarraban's claim is based upon an alleged grant made to one Vicente Gomez by the Mexican Government in 1844. which has been purchased by him. The New Idria Company claim by virtue of actual pos-session since 1852 by settlers to whose rights they have succeeded, and under a law of the United States authorizing miners or mining companies to pre-empt lands which they have occupied and improved. Neither party has received any patent for the land from the United States as yet. Mr. McGarrahan is endeavoring to get such a patent, and the New Idria Company is resisting his efforts and trying to get a patent for itself.

By the treaty between Mexico and the United States made at Guadalupe Hidalgo, February 26, 1848, it was agreed that existing rights to land and other property should be respected, provided they should be duly established before commissioners to be appointed to examine them and determine their validity. Under this treaty Gomez in 1853 put in his claim for the Pauoche Grande ranch, with his proofs. Not being able to show actual occupation of the tract, the commissioners in 1855 rejected the claim. On appeal to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, the decision of the commissioners was in 1858 reversed, and the claim confirmed. A further appeal was then taken by the United States District Attorney to the Su-preme Court of the United States, which appeal was, in May, 1859, by consent of Attorney-General Black, dismissed, and a mandate issued to the lower court directing it to confirm the title of Gomez. The following year, however, Attorney-General Black, on grounds now alleged to be untrue, procured a reversal of the order dismissing the appeal and the recall of the mandate. This gave the United States the right to prosecute a second appeal within five years from the rendition of the original judgment. After the expiration of the five years, the District Attorney of California obtained an appeal order, which the judge granting it afterwards annulled and refused to allow the appeal. Nevertheless, the Supreme Court took up this second appeal, and in 1866, after various motions, the decree of the California District Court was reversed, and a judgment rendered adverse to Gomez.

Pending these legal proceedings, Mr. Mc-Garrahan had purchased the claim of Gomez, and when the decision of the Supreme Court prevented him from obtaining a patent for the land, he presented a petition to Congress asking for the passage of a special act confirming Gomez's title. In 1868 the Committee of the House of Representatives reported in his favor, but the next year the Senate committee were equally divided. In April last he had another hearing before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives; but as yet Congress has taken no action in the matter. He asserts that a stipulation was entered into between his counsel and the counsel on the other side, that, until such action was had, neither party should make any demand upon the Executive Department of the Government for a patent nor receive one, and that in violation of this stipulation the New Idria Company endeavored to persuade and did persuade Secretary Cox to issue a patent to them. President Grant, however, issued an order suspending all action in the case until Congress should have disposed of it, and there the matter now rests.

In opposition to the claim of McGarrahan. the New Idria Company allege various frauds on his part and that of Gomez. They charge Gomez with having forged evidence, with having procured the first decision of the District Court in his favor by collusion, and with tampering with records and officials. On the other hand, McGarrahan says that the New Idria people have bought up United States attorneys and counsel, forged some papers and destroyed others, and resorted to bribery and cheating in every possible form. Those curious in such matters can find a detailed statement of these charges and counter charges set forth in the dozen or more pamphlets which have been issued by one or the other of the two parties.

THE DIAMOND FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA-ANOTHER GREAT IMPULSE TO CIVILIZATION.

From the N. Y. Herald. From the horrors of the war in France, from the crisis to the beleaguered city of Paris and the French republic, from the European perplexities of the peace question, and from the senseless clamors of New York politics, we invite the attention of our readers in this article to the more pleasing subject of the new discovery of the diamond fields of South Africa. In the voluminous and interesting budget of miscellaneous matter in the Herald we gave yesterday letters and newspaper extracts relating to those diamond fields, from which we are satisfied that they are a great reality, and that, under the enand the liberal colonial system of England, they are destined in a wonderful degree to build up in South Africa civilized communities and cities over an area of five hundred thousand square miles. At this time the er organized white settlements in that quarter-Dutch and English of the British colonies, the Dutch republic and other free States in length, from the Cape of Good Hope | dress, said with truth:-

northeastwardly to the north end of the Trans-Vaal republic; and the attractions of these diamond mines will soon develop and enlarge these settlements into a prosperous union, "with all the modern improve-

These diamond fields are on the Vaal river, the head stream of the great Orange river, which forms the chain of dividing mountains flanking the Indian Ocean, flows eastwardly for more than a thousand miles into the Atlantic, in south latitude twenty-nine. The products of this vast region between the Orange region and the southern sea coast include cotton, sugar, coffee, indigo, wheat, Indian corn, sweet potatoes, grapes, oranges and pineapples. But cattle and sheep furnish the chief articles of export. The Cape colony alone has produced in a single year eight million pounds of wool. The Vaal is a beautiful river among the hills, the water clear and delicious, the climate healthy as California, the country charming in its natural attractions, and living cheap, from the astonishing abundance of cattle and of wild game of all kinds, Gordon Cumming has pronounced South Africa the hunter's paradise. His catalogue of wild animals slain in that quarter, from the lion, the elephant and rhinoceros, to the buffaloes, zebras, giraffes, wild boars and gazelles of many varieties, is enough to excite the envy of every young Nimrod in the world who has not shared in his good fortunes.

What, then, to the adventurous spirits of the Anglo-Saxon race will be the limit to the rush to South Africa, when, in addition to all the other attractions indicated, we have this irresistible magnet of the Vaal diamond fields, where the precious stones, along the river hills and water courses for five hundred miles, are picked up, varying from five hundred to five hundred thousand dollars in value-where thousands of diamond hunters are moving about like ants over an ant hill, and where, from the lucky findings, the host of fortune seekers increases every day? Our reports from that now famous region recall to us the stories of the first rush of "the diggers" to the California gold placers in 1849. Nay, the mind is carried back to the vast migrations of bold adventurers from Spain which followed her first explorers in search of the ingots of gold and silver with which the new continent then abounded from Mexico to Peru, and to the whole chain of Spanish American States thus founded, and to the decline of Spain in her resulting exhaustion and demoralization from her proud place as the dominant kingdom of Europe to the weakness of a third-rate power. We are carried back to Sir Walter Raleigh, and to the dreams of gold placers which contributed to the colonization of North Carolina and Virginia, and to the discovery by De Soto of the Mississippi river, and which even affected, to some extent, the Pilgrim Puritans of Massachusetts and the French pioneers into Canada, Acadia, and Louisiana.

From these hopes and dreams of speedy wealth in discoveries of treasures of gold and silver, which contributed so much to the early settlements of America, North and South, by Europeans, we are brought down in this channel of history to California and Australia, and thence to the later discoveries of gold and silver in our new Western States and Territories of Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, and Montana, and to the amazing results of the development of their mines in the expansion of the conquests of modern civilization. Thus the overland railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, or rather from St. Louis to San Francisco, which was in 1850 considered utterly impracticable, is in 1870 in successful operation; and thus we find regions, pronounced not long ago as worthless as the Desert of Zahara, now sprinkled with prosperous towns and rising cities boasting their daily newspapers.

We have seen, too, that with the exception of the gold washings of California her people are developing enduring sources of wealth in her wheat fields and vineyards, and that as the gold placers of Australia are exhausted new sources of prosperity are opened in her boundless sheep and cattle ranges. So will it be with the diamond fields of South Africa. The diamond districts of Brazil have failed to attract any effective emigration because of the drawbacks of the climate and the obstructions of the Government. In South Africa, on the other hand, where the freedom and health of California prevail and the abundant blessings of the hunter's paradise, we expect some wonderful results in the expansion of civilization and commerce from the attractions of those diamond mines. It is the realization of that diamond story of the Arabian Nights; and why may not the adventurer to the Vaal diamond fields dream of coming away with a single pebble in his waistcoat pocket that makes him a millionsire?

The great continent of Africa, which boasts the oldest and grandest monuments of ancient civilization, has been through all time and remains to this day, excepting a small section here and there, in a state of barbarism. Its capabilities, however, for human subsistence and luxuries are illimitable. On her northern coast, embracing Algeria and all those States, Africa has still the resources for the creation of a greater commercial empire than was Carthage; her western equatorial coast regions of boundless fertility need only the stimulus and discipline of civilization to her native blacks to develop in time a trade greater than that of India; her great equatorial basin and upper valley of the Nile may be made to yield hundreds of thousands of cattle and millions of bales of cotton, and the broad, fertile basin of the Zambezi, on the Indian Ocean side, may be made to rival in its tropical products the valley of the Amazon. South Africa, however, from its inviting climate and its great variety of products, is surely destined at no distant day to bring into the front rank of civilized States a prosperous, independent confederation. England, as a naval outpost and commer-

cial depot, may still hold fast the Cape of Good Hope; but as she has gained the amplest profits in trade from the United States as an independent nation, so she will in good time find it her true policy rather to encourage than resist the will of the people in the New Dominion, in Australia, and in South Africa. Indeed, the basis of a republican confederation already exists in those free South African States. Eugland, meantime, can do nothing better than to encourage in every way the settlement of the New Dominion and of South Africa from her redundant population at home. But, whatever she may do or may fail to do, we expect these diamond fields of South Africa to play the same rols in the enlargement of civilization as that of the gold fields of California and Australia and the silver mountains of Nevada.

AMERICAN ECCIOLOGY.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The Social Science Association has lately closed its ninth general meeting in Philadelphia. The very existence of such an Associa tion is a healthful symptom of progress. Judge Strong, in his admirable opening ad-

"The intelligent mind of the country has hardly awakened yet to a full apprehension of what is meant by social science. Scholars understand when we speak of the science of mathematics, of astronomy, or physics generally, or when we speak of the science of law, or theology, or medicine; but when we talk of a science that selects human society as we tak of a science that selects human society as its subject, and includes in its departments all that affects society for good or ill, we seem to many like those in a dream. It is remarkable that in the classi-ncation which the celebrated French philosopher, Auguste Comte, made, only a few years since, of what, in his opinion, are all possible departments of human knowledge, he included what he denominated 'sociology,' not as an existing science, but as some-thing that might, in a distant hereafter, be developed into a department of knowledge."

Society the Judge described aptly as an organism "which might be said to have life. Now, it is with this living organism, with these habits, diseases, opinions, capabilities, and everything that acts upon social happi ness and development; with all that has been discovered, or that yet may be known, which tends to elevate and advance human society, that social science has to do.

The field, as will be seen, is wide enough

even in European countries, where the social structures contain few component parts, and during centuries have hardened into definite shapes, of which the defects have grown patent and obtrusive with time. The science s more difficult than any other because of its vagueness, and more thickly beset with problems. What must it be in this country, then, which is, after all, a seetking caldron, into which have been thrown every race, political creed, religion, and theory under beaven, to war or fuse together as they n ay chance, under a system of government alien to the majority of them? How to bring fusion instead of war; how to detect and cure their diseases; how to rightly esti-

mate and place the relation of each to each are but parts of the work that offers itself to our social science philosopher. Where such breadth of standing ground is permitted, it would be impossible for a body of learned and practical men, such as assembled last week in Philadelphia, to attempt to exchange opinions without offering many ideas both rational and valuable. They should have remembered, however, that the danger lay in the wide limits of the subject, which would be likely to cause any search after truth to degenerate into vague, indefinite discussion. Of all sciences, sociology should have its principles most firmly based on immutable truth, and should be most precise and accurate in their application. An error in mathematics or physics will perforce right itself; but social science deals with human action, thrusts its hold into vital spiritual principles, as the physician deals with the life of the body. A mistake in one case is as fatal and irremediable as the other, and so much the graver as it affects the existence of masses of men instead of individuals. The first effort of these gentlemen who are endeavoring, from the purest motives, we doubt not, to give the science form and place among us, should have been to ground it thoroughly on fixed axioms, to narrow its bounds as much as possible, and then concentrate their efforts on certain given points. This was not the case in the meeting just closed. While there was an undoubted display of ability, research, and force, there was an utter want of any concentration of purpose. It is true that the leading minds of the association endeavored to direct its influence and weight to the civil service reform. But civil service reform is a surface matter, after all. The other members, as might be expected when the gates of entry were thrown so wide to every subject,

each pressed in, riding his favorite hobby. One was impressed with the idea that the most fatal disease which threatened the body politic was the incomplete mode of taking the census; another old gentleman had some favorite ideas about the testimony of experts; a third pressed a new map of the United States on the country as all that was needed to urge humanity on its progress. There was, too, a sufficient vague building up of imaginary Utopias to draw upon them the ridicule they seemed to fear. England was civilly invited to admit our manufactures at the same duty as her own iron and Indian

a millennial state of freedom, knowledge, and meat twice a day. In spite of these errors, however, the Association is accomplishing a good work, if only in drawing the attention of thinking people to the subjects which it attempts to grasp.

tissues, and to abrogate entails and primo-

geniture, and promised in return the abolish-

ment of Fenianism and instant admission to

PRIVATE MASKED BATTERIES. From the N. Y. Times.

The curious homicide in Twenty-third street, a few nights ago, whereby a supposed burglar was killed in attempting to break into the shop of a gunsmith, opens up an interesting question of legal and moral right. The circumstances of the case are still fresh in the minds of our readers. The worthy gunsmith had been put to much pecuniary loss and vexation of spirit by repeated nocturnal visits to his shop, and finding what we facetiously call the "law" powerless to protect him, determined to protect himself. Being an Italian, his hot Southern blood, perhaps, needed little prompting to take vigorous and effective measures against these destroyers of his peace and purloiners of his property. He forthwith arranged to insure for his next trespasser a brief but vivid renewal of the Sicilian Vespers. A masked battery, consisting of a Springfield musket, loaded to the muzzle with slugs, was so planted as to command the approaches to the gunsmith's citadel, and, by an ingenious contrivance, fixed to be discharged on any attempt to open his shutters from outside. The other morning the triumph of these warlike combinations was found in the person of a young man, with but half a head, lying beneath the gun-smith's window. Near by the body were certain implements apparently pertaining to the housebreaker's craft. There was, therefore, little if any doubt of his purpose.

Now at first blush this will appear to most people a case of entirely justifiable homicide. Every man has a right to protect his person and property against the thief who comes in the night, even to the taking of life. But there is a difference between killing an actual burglar, met and confronted in the perpetration of his felony, and setting a trap to kill a possible burglar, with a rather startling range of other possible and utterly uncontrollable consequences. If any contingency had arisen, such as fire, which made it lawfully necessary to effect an entrance into our gunsmith's shop through his window, the results would have been appalling, and would in that case have borne an ugly resemblance, if not to murder, at least to an aggravated degree of manslaughter. And because the event appears to justify the act in this case, it is none the less homicidal. Only through lack of the necessary indication of depravity does it miss becoming obnexious to that provision of the revised statutes which declares killing to be murder, when perpetrated by any act imminently dangerous to others, though without premeditated design to effect the death of any particular individual. In a community so overridden by crime,

passic remedies for unpleasant and dangerous diseases. Use Helmbold's Extract Buchu and so insulted by a mockery of legal protection

and of justice as ours, it may seem harsh to blame a man for taking effectual means to give himself that security which corrupt and imbecile authority denies. But two wrongs do not make a right, and it is, in the long run, better for the interests of public safety and public morality that our shops should be robbed with impunity than that our lives should be endangered by a general establishment of private automatic masked batteries, which are not likely to discriminate between the innocent and the guilty. The end in this case plainly does not justify the means. And if our people wish to secure their lives and property against the audacious villainy of the men who virtually rule and ruin our city, they will do more to achieve that end by voting against the ring than by fencing their houses with mitraillenses

THE REPUBLIC AND BAZAINE.

From the N. Y. World. Whatever may be thought by the rest of the world of the surrender of Marshal Bazaine at Metz, the French Government at Tours at least have made up their minds on the subject. In a stirring proclamation to the French people they denounce the act as an act of treason to the State, and Marshal Bazaine himself as an accomplice of the "Man of Sedan.

It is impossible to deny that there are many things in the accounts which have already reached us of this amazing incident of the war to warrant the belief that these terrible charges may be only too well founded in truth. There is nothing, unfortunately, in the past career of Marshal Bazaine, and especially in his Mexican experience (to which the Government at Tours bitterly allude), to render even such accusations as M. Gambetta and his colleagues level at him antecedently improbable. All the best correspondents from the scene agree in the statement that the Germans were "amazed" at the actual capitulation. The fearful story which came to us with a strong careat recently from our correspondent at Ostend, of a massacre of unarmed people at the gates of Metz, seems to have been, as our correspondent led us to hope it might prove to be, part of what looks now like a systematic attempt of the imperialists in Belgium and England to represent the position of the army at Metz as more hopeless than it really was.

But without entering fully to-day into the question of Marshal Bazaine's guilt or innocence, we may unreservedly commend to the admiration of our readers the fearless, resolute, and masculine tone of the proclamation in which the Government at Tours announce this great catastrophe to the people of the republic. It extenuates nothing of the extent of the disaster, and concedes nothing. How far the high and unconquered tone of the Government is justified by the state of the military organization with which republican France is preparing to meet her victorious foes, we shall know in a few weeks at farthest. Meanwhile no freeman in any country can refuse his most cordial sympathies to the spirit with which these leaders of a people striving to be free, and to establish freedom, use to the shock of calamities really almost unparalleled in the history of mankind. The Tribune, which is nothing if not a worshipper of success, does the World the honor to say that we cught to publish this journal at Tours. We do not decline the compliment. The city of Tours to-day contains the only republican government in Europe, out of Switzerland—agovernment struggling against overwhelming military force to maintain these principles of republican autonomy which are the only assurance of American power and progress, and, as we believe, the only hope of European emancipation and

If the World but maintain these principles as resolutely in the fair weather of America as the Government of Tours pro claims them in the storm sweeping now over Frauce, it will probably fare but ill with the Tribune and its party, but it will assuredly fare well with the Democracy and with the Union.

THE METHODIST BOOK CONCERN.

From the N. Y. World. Without wishing to appear as partisans in an ecclesiastical dispute-which is of the nature of a domestic dispute in this, that secular journals have nothing to do with it until it comes before a public tribunal-we are quite sure that we express the general feeling in owning surprise at the disposition

which has been made of the case of Dr. Lanahan. The only offence of that gentleman seems, to secular apprehension, to have been his honesty and his courage in exposing what he believed to be serious and systematic injuries done to the Methodist Church by its agents in the Methodist Book Concern. Whether his belief was well or ill founded does not at all affect the merits of the case. A very considerable portion of the Methodist Church, and nearly the whole newspaper reading community outside the limits of that

Church, believe upon the evidence adduced to justify it that it was.

The official committee of the Church hold, upon what evidence does not appear, that it was not. But so long as it is not charged (and we are not aware that it has been charged) that the motive of Dr. Lanahan in expressing it was malicious, he is certainly entitled to praise and protection rather than retirement and disgrace from the Church whose interests he tried to subserve. It was his clear duty to disclose what he knew of unwise or criminal mismanagement. But for such a disclosure he has been arraigned for trial before the same body which appears as his prosecutors. Obviously such a body, however well intentioned, will be apt to make good its own charges upon much slighter evidence than would satisfy an impartial tribunal. That the complainant should also be the judge is such an infraction of justice as no civil court will admit, although we find it admitted in ecclesiastical courts.

The judgment, or rather the prejudgment, of such a body will not convince disinterested observers of the valid ty of its grounds. It is a pity that the slander suit now or lately pending against Dr. Lanahan should not be brought to trial. In that case the Methodist Church and the public would be satisfie i both of the impartiality and the competency of the Court appointed to try it, and of the fairness of the law of evidence which guided it. Courts martial and courts ecclesiastical commonly execute their sentences, it is true. But neither commonly does anything towards convincing people that its sentence is a just one. And such a moral conviction is what is needed for the vindication of the Methodist Book Concern against the charges of Dr. Lanahan. It would certainly obtain it if Dr. Lanahan were beaten in a trial before a civil court of justice. It is very doubtful if it will obtain it, whether he is beaten or not, in a trial before a court composed of his accusers.

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PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR SUPPLIES-U. S. NAVY PAYMASTER'S OFFICE, No. 425 CHESNUT

Street.

Street.

Philadetrhia October 26, 1870.

Sealed Proposals, endorsed "Proposals for Supplies, Bureau of Construction," etc., will be received at this Office, until 12 o'clock M., on Saturday, Nov. 5, for furnishing the United States Navy Department with the following article, to be of the best could be and subject to proposition by the Lespacing quality, and subject to inspection by the Inspecting.
Officer in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, where it
must be delivered, when required, free of expense
to the Government, for which security must be One Fan Blower, equal to "Alden's patent," with Shaft, Countershaft, Pullies, etc., in running order complete, and to be run one week on trial before

acceptance.
For further particulars and time of delivery apply to the NAVAL CONSTRUCTOR, Navy Yard.
Blank forms for proposals will be furnished at this A. W. RUSSELL,

office. 10 26 Paymaster U.S. Navy. QUARTERMASTERS OFFICE, U. S. ARMY.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Oct. 23, 1870.

Sealed Proposais, in triplicate, will be received a this Office up to 12 o'clock M. on MONDAY, the 28th day of November, 1870, for the erection of a building of wood (officers' quarters) at Fort McHenry Md., according to plans and specifications which

Md., according to plans and specifications which can be seen at this Office, Depot Quariermaster's Office, Washington, D. C., and office of Captain C. A. Alligood, Acting Assistant Quartermaster, Baltimore, Md. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids not

The right is reserved to reject any and an olds no considered to the inter-at o' the public service.

The envelope to be endorsed "Proposal for Building at Fort McHenry, Md.," and addressed to the undersigned.

HENRY C. HODGES,

Major and Quartermaster U. S. A.,

Chf. Qr. Mr. 3d Qr. Mrs. District,

10 28 6t

Dept. of the East.

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